

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has cancelled Claims 1-16. Claims 17 and 18 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

In the Office action dated June 2, 2003 of Parent Application Serial No. 10/176,083, the Examiner required an election of species under 35 U.S.C. § 121 prior to an examination on the merits of application. The separate species of the claimed invention are identified by the Examiner as the species of : Figures 1-4; Figure 5; Figure 6; Figure 7-10; and Figures 11-12.

In compliance with the Examiner's requirement, Applicant provisionally elects without traverse for further prosecution the embodiment of the present invention illustrated in Figures 11 and 12, Claims 1, 17, and 18.

In an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicant has cancelled the original Claims 2-16, drawn to the non-elected species. Notwithstanding, it should be noted that under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 121, Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter. In fact, a separate divisional application is concurrently filed herewith to cover the embodiments of Figs 7-10. The divisional application is identified as Attorney Docket No. 20279.03. The embodiment of Applicant's invention as illustrated in Figs. 1-4 is covered by the allowed claims of application Serial No. 10/115,896, filed April 5, 2002. The embodiment of Applicant's invention as illustrated in Fig. 6 is covered by the claims of co-pending parent application Serial No. 10/176,083.

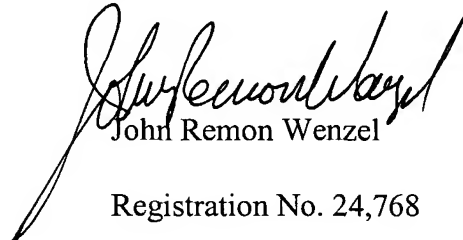
Application No. : Divisional of 10/176,083
Art Unit: 3673

Attorney Docket No. 20279.04

Applicant respectfully contends that the safety sheet/blanket as set forth by the present claims is patentably distinguishable from the references cited of record.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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